Guide To Career Choices

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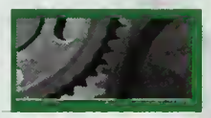
a brief look at:

- jobs
- education and training requirements
- wages
- outlook



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guide no. 12

ENTRY : The mean (average) of the bottom third of wages in an occupation.
MEDIAN: Half of the workers in the occupation earn more than this wage; half earn less.
EXPERIENCED : The mean of the top two-thirds of wages in an occupation.

HS > High School diploma or equivalent
AD > Associate Degree of Arts/Science community college, 2 years
BA/BS > Bachelor of Arts/Science degree colleges/universities, 4 years

Career Opportunities	OUTLOOK 2008 EMPLOYMENT	OUTLOOK LONG-TERM OUTLOOK	OUTLOOK SHORT-TERM FORECAST	HOURLY WAGES ENTRY	HOURLY WAGES MEDIAN	HOURLY WAGES EXPERIENCED	EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Aircraft Mechanics	3,249	F	F	$11.16	$20.67	$24.78	Certification by the Federal Aviation Authority as an airframe mechanic, power plant mechanic or repairer.
Aircraft Pilots & Flight Engineers	4,986	UF	F	$38.01	$75.88	$72.58	Commercial pilot's license and Federal Aviation Authority instrument rating.
Amusement & Recreation Attendants	12,985	VF	F	$5.50	$6.48	$8.41	Training is provided on the job over a one month period. For those planning careers in recreation, an AD or BA in parks/recreation is highly recommended.
Counter & Rental Clerks	24,390	VF	F	$5.67	$6.92	$8.64	HS diploma is preferred. Most skills are learned on the job both informally and in classroom training programs.
Flight Attendants	8,298	VF	VF	$17.34	$19.91	$33.20	HS is accepted, however, a BA/BS is preferred. Intensive four to six week employer training.
Hotel Desk Clerks	5,388	F	F	$5.88	$7.28	$8.46	HS is required. Previous work experience is an asset.
Recreation Workers	19,751	VF	F	$5.68	$7.64	$11.03	HS; for professional positions a bachelor's degree is required, preferably with a major in parks/recreation.
Reservation & Transportation Ticket Agents	8,935	F	F	$7.32	$10.85	$14.37	Entry requirements are minimal, but competition for vacancies may be keen.
Travel Agents	8,528	F	VUF	$6.68	$8.91	$11.58	HS; however, formal vocational/college training is becoming a requirement.
Ushers, Lobby Attendants & Ticket Takers	5,117	F	VUF	$5.52	$5.94	$6.51	Training is provided on the job over a one month period.

- Occupational growth rates and job opening data are based on All-Industry projections throught the year 2008.
- Long-Term Outlook and Short-Term Forecast descriptors are derived from projected employment growth and the level of employment for the occupation as a percentage of total employment.
- Wage data cover full-time, part-time and seasonal employees but exclude temporary and contractual workers. Wages include piece rates, commissions and cost-of-living allowances but exclude overtime and tips.

***data are not available

F Favorable
VF Very Favorable
UF Unfavorable
VUF Very Unfavorable

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE JOBS?

AIRCRAFT PILOTS...pilot and navigate flight of private or commercial aircraft for the transportation of passengers, freight, mail or for other purposes. They must be federally licensed. With advances in technology, pilots now rely heavily on computerized controls. Except on a small aircraft, two pilots usually make up the cockpit crew: the captain and the first officer.

FLIGHT ATTENDANTS...provide personal services to insure the safety and comfort of airline passengers during flight. They greet passengers, verify tickets, record destinations, assign seats, explain the use of safety equipment, and serve meals and beverages.

RECREATION WORKERS...organize recreational programs offered at a wide range of locations, including amusement parks, sports and entertainment centers, wilderness/survival enterprises, tourist attractions, hotels and resorts and vacation excursion companies. Working under their direction are amusement and recreation attendants, who schedule the use of facilities, collect fees and operate games and rides.

RESERVATION AGENTS...are employed primarily by large hotel chains or airlines. Usually based in large central offices, they answer telephone inquiries, quote fares and room rates, make and confirm transportation and hotel reservations and sell tickets. Transportation ticket agents work in airports, train and bus stations selling tickets, assigning seats to passengers and checking baggage. Automated reservations and ticketing have reduced the need for some positions in both of these occupations.

TRAVEL AGENTS...plan trips for travel agency customers. Duties include determining destination, modes of transportation, travel dates, costs, accommodations required plus planning, describing or selling itinerary package tours. May specialize in foreign or domestic service, individual or group travel, specific geographical area, airplane charters or package tours.

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WHAT IS THE JOB OUTLOOK?

Employment in this area is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008. Spending on travel is expected to increase significantly in future years. As business activity expands, so will business-related travel. With rising household incomes, smaller families and an increasing number of older people who are more likely to travel, more people are expected to vacation than in the past.

Charter flights and larger, more efficient planes have brought air transportation within the budgets of more people. And the easing of government regulation of air fares and routes has fostered greater competition among airlines, resulting in lower rates. In addition, the growing number of foreign visitors has resulted in American travel agents organizing tours for this group.

WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

The Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2000-01 Edition, contains many additional sources of information for over 250 occupations in all sectors of the economy. You may order the Handbook by contacting the U.S. Government Bookstore, 401 South State Street, Suite 124, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1297, 312/353-5133 or check out the online version at http://stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm.
For access to other labor market and workforce information on the internet, visit the following sites:
IDES' home page: http://www.ides.state.il.us,
LMI Source: http://lmi.ides.state.il.us,
Workforce Info Center: http://www.ILWorkInfo.com and a site targeted towards high school students:
http://www.workforceinfo.state.il.us.

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Career Guide Sources:
Illinois Department of Employment Security's "Occupational Projections" and "Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Data" and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Occupational Outlook Handbook"

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